

CDXC newsletter

President: G3HTA	CDXC 1989	Social Secretary: G4JVG
Treasurer: G4GED	Chairman: G4LJF	Secretary: G3LQP
Awards Manager: G4GED	Vice-Chairman: G4JVG	Wants List: GW4BLE
Newsletter Printing and Distribution: G4PEO		

Club Net: Mondays, 7pm local time, 80m.
Club Alerting Frequency: 144.525MHz.
Deadline for next Newsletter: Sept. 23rd.

Issue 62

31st July 1989

Editor: G3XTT

CLUB NEWS

FROM THE EDITOR Firstly, an apology for the lateness of this newsletter. Unfortunately I got rather behind with things following the GBOSK/GBOFILA DXpedition. Anyway, I do hope all of you have been enjoying the bands and the lovely weather. As I write this Conway Reef is back on the air - someone obviously thinks it is going to count! As it is the DXAC will not vote on the inclusion of FO/A, FO/M, T33, 3D2 Conway Reef, etc, until September. To be on the safe side it will be well worth working all of them, including the promised operation from Walvis Bay.

For my own part I thoroughly enjoyed the mini-expedition to the Flannan Islands and St.Kilda. The party of six included three CDXC members (myself, Martin G3ZAY, and Andrew GOHSD), and we were pleased to work many of you. Hopefully Andrew will have put some notes together in time for the next newsletter. At the same time, Drew GM3YOR and Steve G4JVG were busy operating from Turkey and ended up with about 4,500 QSOs, finding that demand was greatest on CW.

All being well, a group consisting mainly of CDXC members will operate from Jersey in a major multi-single effort as GJ6UW for the CQWW SSB Contest. Do look out for us and give us some extra points. We also hope to be on CW, the WARC bands, etc, before and after the contest.

Finally, please take note of the deadline for next time. The hope is to get the September issue out in time for the HF Convention where, of course, the usual interesting DX-oriented programme will be on offer. See you there!

73 de Don, G3XTT

Note: DX Editors are welcome to use news items from the CDXC newsletter (with due acknowledgement), but please contact the editor first if you wish to reproduce a complete article.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

The letter from Alan, G4NXG, which appears in this newsletter, arrived just after the deadline for the previous issue. Since then Alan's worked score from his mobile operation has risen to 251, a score that many would be proud of even from their home QTH.

Please take note of the letter from Steve GW4BLE and return to him a completed copy of the "Wants List" questionnaire. It would be helpful if all of you could do this, even if you have previously sent me your "wants" as this will ensure that Steve starts with a wants list which is completely up-to-date.

PACKET CLUSTER AGAIN

A few days ago I attended the RSGB's Data Convention when, among some other fascinating talks, Andrew Demartini KC2FF spoke about the Packet Cluster DX alerting system. Ian, G4LJF, has, of course, already written about PacketCluster in this newsletter, and the RSGB seems to look favourably on the concept, though they are trying to steer us away from 2 metres given the high level of packet activity which already exists on the few 2 metre channels which are available. KC2FF's talk was extremely entertaining as he covered the history of PacketCluster from its debut as a general purpose "conferencing" system in early-85 to its widespread adoption for DX alerting. There are now 13 nodes in the northeast USA, 9 in Northern California (under W6GO's influence) with up to 80 users logged on at any one time, 7 in the South-East with up to 120 users at a time, 5 in Southern California and 5 in Dallas. There are also 3 nodes operating in Germany, and one each in Belgium and Japan. KC2FF said the computer people who developed the system were amazed at the rapid adoption by DXers and, because they are usually of a retiring personality, found it hard to communicate with the predominantly type-A personalities of DXers! The DXers didn't care what the system cost, and were prepared to learn about computing if need be. The over-riding motivation was that if this helped them catch the new one they had to have it, preferably yesterday. For people who think nothing of 120ft towers and the very best in radios and linears, getting organised on packet is all in the line of duty. Future enhancements to PacketCluster will include support for higher speed modems to get the information through more quickly. As KC2FF said "When 9600 baud is available there will be 30 of these radios and modems purchased immediately (for each of the US nodes), that's just the way these guys operate".

SOLAR NEWS

We have been going through a period of low solar activity, though the experts suggest that this is not unusual just before a solar maximum, so we can still look forward, all being well, to some excellent conditions this autumn and next spring. Despite the low solar activity 6 metres has been quite lively of late. The only interesting one I have worked was 5H1HK, but South America has been workable regularly, along with ZS3, Z21, etc.

THE TYPICAL CONTESTER? I was fascinated recently to read the results of a survey conducted by the US National Contest Journal into who takes part in contests and what equipment they use. According to the survey (of US contesters), the typical HF contest enthusiast is 43 years of age, degree educated (89% of respondents to the survey had a university degree, 20% also had a higher degree), with a family income of \$60,000. He has been licensed for 27 years, having first obtained his licence when 16 years old, much prefers CW to SSB operation, and regards the CQWW contests as far and away his favourites, well ahead of WPX, ARRL DX, etc. He uses two towers, owns two transceivers, and works an average of 6,600 contest QSOs a year. He enjoys contests mainly for their competitive nature, and his competitive instincts are likely to extend to other sports such as Baseball or Softball. Interestingly, he shares the popular view that contests can be antisocial and that there are too many of them, but regards the major contesting events as something special deserving of lots of effort and enthusiasm. At first sight these results may seem surprising, but I have a feeling that if such a survey were conducted in the UK the results would not be so very different. We may on the whole make do with rather more modest stations, mainly due to space limitations (the biggest stations in the US were those in the midwest where space is more readily available), but the majority of serious UK contesters have been at the game for many years, and are professional people who work hard and play hard. No doubt much the same is true of many DXers.

DX CALENDAR (Tnx G4DY0)

Til Aug 10	RY8G/UT4UXX	Til Aug 12	S79MX by HB9MX
Til Aug 15	AS-39 ??	Til Aug 20	TK2/FB1MUX
Til Aug 21	FOOMGZ by FD1MGZ	Til Sep	TT8CW
Til Sep	UV3DDC/UAOI Obl 138	Til Sep 30	SP8UFO/JW
Til Oct 1	UA0UBG/UA8V	Til Oct 10	JX7DFA
Til end Nov	JW7FD Bear Island	Til Aug '90	W0ZX/KL7 Adak Is
Til Dec '90	ZM prefix by ZLs	Aug	FH8CB in 5R
Aug	TG0FRACAP	Aug 1-15	EU-47 DJ3TF/P
Aug 1-20	Obl 003 by UAs	Aug 3-13	UM4N/UW4CF Obl 034
Aug 4-13	HB0/DF9GR	Aug 5-12	XT by DK7PE ?
Aug 5-13	CY0DXX Sable Is	Aug 5-17	TA3/DL5XX
Aug 6-13	EU-93 ED5TIA	Aug 6-20	EU-17 ID9/I4ALU
Aug 7-21	9H3FI by IT9VDQ	Aug 8-14	ZZ8 prefix
Aug 10-14	GUOLWR by F's	Aug 11-13	NA-83 KW3Z
Aug 12-13	WAE CW Contest	Aug 17-23	EU-48 TV6BIM
Aug 17-24	EU-34 UR9/UQ1GWW	Aug 19-20	SEANET SSB Ctst
Aug 24-30	CONWAY REEF	Aug 26	F89 prefix
Aug 26-27	EU-57 Y32KE ??	Aug 26-27	All Asian CW Ctst
Aug 27-Sep 9	ZS1 Walvis Bay	Aug 28-Sep 2	JELJKL/9M6
Sep	UA3EAC/RF5Q Obl 014	Sep ??	ZD9 Gough Is ??
Sep 1-8	EU-113 DL3ZI/SV8	Sep 1-9	A35MR Minerva Reef?
Sep 1-Nov 30	DXNS CHALLENGE	Sep 2-3	Reg 1 SSB Field Day
Sep 2-9	SV/A by EI4GV????	Sep 3	LZ DX CW Ctst
Sep 6	YL Activity Day	Sep 6-20	UW3DM/RF8Q
Sep 9-10	WAE SSB Contest	Sep 9-10	TM7EU call
Sep 9-16	ZA by EI4GV????	Sep 11-24	OG3AA
Sep 16-17	Scandinavian CW Ctst	Sep 23	French Convention
Sep 23-24	CQWW RTTY Contest	Sep 23-24	SAC SSB Ctst
Sep 29-Oct 1	EU-98 Y32KE	Sep 30-Oct 1	RSGB HF CONVENTION

May 16th 1989.

Dear All,

Just a few words while I am stationary to update you on my recent mobile activities.

New all-time countries worked during the last six months are BY,JX,FK,FG,ZL7,KP5,XF4, 5W and South Shetland. Last month I received a credit of 231 for my DXCC from ARRL but unfortunately the DXCC Desk rejected a card from W6JKV/YVØ stating that this expedition is still pending documentation. I wonder if he only had a 50Mhz permit.

QSL cards have recently been received here from J6(Tnx Laurie),KHØ,T5,UG,UJ,CEØA,S9,BY, JX,FK,ZL7,3W and A6. It is unlikely however that the ARRL will accept the A6 contact therefore my confirmed total currently stands at 239. For the record an EP card was not accepted, stating that it was an unauthorised operation, I guess that I should have not have sent it in the first place. My mobile worked score is now 245, excluding A6,EP&YVØ.

At last I got a Louisiana QSL with the correct details on, date, mode etc! This was submitted along with others for mobile contacts to Steve(Mni Tnx) for checking and in turn to ARRL. Consequently I am now the proud owner of a WAS/M. The 'We the People Award' was also obtained just to prove that it does not take as long to work all the States as my WAS would suggest, just time to get all the cards in!

After over six years of faithful service from my FT707, a couple of weeks ago I decided that it had had enough and it was put to rest on the local emporium's shelf looking for a new home. As a consequence I bought an IC735 with all the luxury of PBT, Notch and a Compressor. Of course the main advantage is the Dual VFO which means that I no longer have to drive at 70mph and try to work split pile-ups with the tuning knob. Already I have been rewarded with two new counties in the form of Western Samoa and South Shetland.

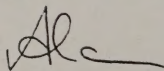
My fears about having to mount mobile whips on the boot rather than the gutter have been dispelled. There is no detrimental effect and no evidence of suggested directivity. This would be useful though, so can someone invent a mini-beam for a car please.

Another successful meeting of northern CDXC members took place at the 'Smoker' pub, including G4ØBK, GW4RHW, G4WXO, G4YSN and myself last month. Will I ever catch them up and work 300+ from my car. As I was licenced before any of them maybe I should have bought a Quad by now but then very few of my neighbours know what my hobby is !!

Well it's only four months to go before the HF Convention and I'm looking forward to seeing the southern members. I cannot make the Annual Review Meeting as I am going to the Cup Final at Wembley so I will give you all a wave as I come passed. Please accept my apologies.

Oh, by the way, I bought a 'Top Band'whip yesterday and made my first 160 meter contact so Henry will be pleased to know that I am off the mark for the Radcom table and Phil G4ØBK will have to watch out in 1.8 Mhz Contests Hi!

73 and Good DXing,



Alan G4NXG/M.

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5th July 1989

Don Field
CDXC Newsletter

Dear Don,

The enclosed sheet details my plans for implementation of the CDXC "wants" programme for inclusion in; or for copy to be sent as a supplement with, the next newsletter.

The last month has been marred with the sad loss of Allan Phillips GWOBIC, he was a good friend who will be sorly missed. There are always a few fair weather DXers but unfortunaetly few real enthusiasts, Allan was a true DXer.

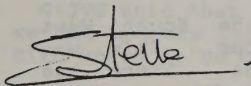
Whoever coined the phrase "Month of Sundays" must, I believe, have installed the first ever KLM KT34XA! That's just about the time it's taken me to install one here. There are a lot of parts that really required to be out together S L O W L Y . I may put pen to paper for a future newsletter article should anyone be considering such an antenna. There would appear to be several KT34 owners in the club but no other XAs?

The original plan was to stack a two element Cush-Craft 40m yagi with the Hy-Gain TH5 but after consultation with Strumech they recommended a change of tower (the additional dead weight load would be excessive on the existing tower with the two yagis). Although the TH5 worked well, the KT34XA had much better forward gain figures and it was decided that as the plans for 40m had to be shelved an improvement was on the cards for HF. With the extened boom length on the XA (32 feet) KLM claim greater forward gain than any other tribander on the market. I haven't had time to confirm that claim yet but will let you know.

Good luck to the team being set up for the CQ WW trip to Jersey. I'am sure they will do well with their challenge at the GW6GW score from 1980. By the way, just to put the record right, it was set by GW6GW and not GW8GT.

Anyone interested in some computer equipment? I have for sale a Commodore C64 complete with 1541 disc drive, MPS 801 printer and Phillips green screen monitor; also a comprehensive supply of software including CAGEN contest duping programme (as used in all recent contests), XANTEK "Super DXedge", word processor package etc.. All originals with manuals, not copied. Anyone interested please get in touch.

Regards to all,



Steve
GW4BLE

WESTERN DX GROUP AT LONGLEAT

Again this year the Western DX Group welcomed visiting DXers and their families to the Annual Rally at Longleat on 25 June. The hospitality tent seems to have become a regular event and it certainly provides an opportunity for the DX fraternity to get together. Sadly we missed Allan, GWOBIC who was one of our most enthusiastic supporters, an active DXer, and a regular contributor with DX information on the .525 net. Allan died suddenly on Sunday 11 June, just two weeks before the rally. We miss him.

In the area around the tent there were chairs and a large notice board. 36 visitors signed in, there were many more than this and along with their families you can imagine how busy the area was at times. Of the 36 at least 18 were members of CDXC. The notice board had all sorts of information and a few funnies that revealed how some perceived certain "DXers" (foreign of course). There was the usual map showing where the active DXers were located in South Wales and the South West and a couple of posters; one inviting membership of CDXC and another reminding those who might be interested in a packet DX cluster network to let G4LJF know that they would want to be in on it.

Two "certificates" were awarded. For his much valued opinions on .525, Tim, G4STH was awarded the ARSE award (Amateur Radio Soapbox Expert) - that should'n't need any explanation. Brian, G4YAQ received the BATTY award (Beam Antenna Technician of The Year). He passed the point where most of his beam parts had been replaced and it still did not work beyond the next rain shower. His new beam has arrived and will be up in time for Bouvet!

Our special thanks for organising everything to Tim, G4STH, Dave GOANP and especially to Hazel, G4YLO who spent the day not only brewing tea and coffee but also producing beefburgers and hot dogs.

John, G3HTA

PACKET CLUSTER FOR DX INFORMATION

Considerable interest has been expressed here in the South West for the DX information system using a Packet Cluster. This was described by Ian, G4LJF following his visit to USA. There has been a mad rush to buy PK-232s and TNC's so that experience can be had in just how packet works and can be used. Clearly it is technically a brilliant system and needs a purpose. I am sure we can make good use of it. The following active DXers are QRV with packet: G3HTA, GOABI, G3GNR, GOANP, G4VWK, G4SOF - all PK232's.

John G3HTA

for resigning was that he wished to opt out of the DX scene for while, as he too was becoming tired of the appalling behavior on the bands. Also he does not have a 2M radio, and so he felt that there was little purpose in remaining a member.

Ian said that a great deal of his time had been spent writing contributions for the News Letter, and that it was unfortunate that the majority of the input came from the Secretary, and not more from the Membership as a whole.

Club Constitution

The Chairman then turned to the proposed Club Constitution. Each part of the Constitution was dealt with in turn:

Club Name

Considerable discussion took place concerning the proposed name of the Club. G3KMA expressed concern that if we did not take the name British DX Association, then it left the way open for another group to start a rival organization using that name.

G4LJF thought that situation was unlikely as the majority of UK Dx'ers who might show any interest in that direction were already members of CDXC. Concern had also been expressed in Committee that the point was coming where the Club might become unmanageable on a volunteer basis, and that changing the name to British Dx Association might cause a flood of applications that would overload the running of the club to the extent that success might be it's undoing.

G3HTA said there was a need for a UK group. He said that we should not break up what we already had, but form an 'umbrella' National Association. G4LJF said that it would logistically be very difficult to administer such an organization as well as CDXC. As it was, all the work was done by very few people, and without a great deal of voluntary help, such an idea would be unworkable.

G4STH said that CDXC purported an elitist image that could be off putting to new membership. For example, the initial requirement for having worked 250 countries.

G3GIQ replied that the 250 country limit was thought at the time to what was necessary to attract the right caliber of member. However this had been revised downwards to 100 countries.

G4JVG said that he had suggested the name GB Club. G4LJF said that as we had members from ON, DL, and W, plus an application from UW9LA, GB Club would be no more suitable than CDXC.

GW3CDP said that it really did not matter what the club was called. IT was already established as the Chiltern Dx Club, so leave it as it is. G3OZF agreed.

The matter was put to the vote, and with the proxy votes received there was an overwhelming choice of retaining the name Chiltern Dx Club. There was one abstention.

Aims

The aims were agreed unanimously.

Membership

Agreed at 100 countries confirmed, or at the discretion of the Committee. (The latter covers the case of those Dx'ers who do not go in for QSL'ing).

Subscriptions

Agreed

Finance

Agreed

Committee

G3HTA suggested that the Secretaries work load should be divided, i.e. one person responsible for the Master Roll, another for Minutes etc. G4LJF said that this already happens in effect with G4PEO keeping a database of the membership. However it was agreed that the Committee of 6 could co-opt 2 more members if necessary should workload dictate.

Annual General Meeting

G4STH pointed out that 15 for an AGM quorum should be percentage. After some discussion, in order to cover all possibilities, it was agreed that the quorum should be set at 15 persons or 25% of the membership, whichever is smaller.

A vote was then taken and the Constitution was unanimously approved with the amendments as detailed above. The Chairman then called on the Treasurer to give his report.

Treasurer's Report

G3LQP said that the Club was £545.00 in surplus at the moment, although the cost of printing the News Letter was now a major outgoing.

G4STH pointed out that the cost of printing and distribution of the News Letter was now in excess of the annual subscription. However, the Treasurer replied that he was of the opinion that the Club could manage with the present subscription rate, subject to any further items of expenditure that might arise as a result of this meeting. The Treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

Election Of Officers

G3GIQ asked G3OZF to take the Chair to conduct the election of Committee members for the following year.

GW3BLE proposed G4LJF as Secretary. Ian replied that he would be unable to continue as Secretary this year due to many other commitments, and proposed G3LQP as Secretary, who was seconded by G3HTA. G3LQP was unanimously voted in as Secretary.

G3LQP then proposed G4LJF as Chairman, which was seconded by

G3HTA. Unanimously approved.

G3XTT was proposed as News Letter Editor, by G3OZF and seconded by G4JVG. Unanimously approved.

G4GED was proposed by G3GIQ as Treasurer, seconded by G3XTT. Unanimously approved.

G4JVG was proposed as Vice Chairman by GØBTY and seconded by G3OFW. Unanimously approved.

G3HTA was proposed as President and seconded by G4PEO. Unanimously approved.

The election of Officers now complete, G3OZF handed the Chair to the new Chairman G4LJF.

Ian thanked those present for their vote, and the outgoing Committee for their efforts in the last year. He also confirmed with G3RUR as Auditor that the accounts were in order, and asked Tony whether he would continue as Auditor for the next year. Tony agreed to continue.

He also asked G4GED whether he would continue as Awards Manager. Dave agreed.

Ian then asked John G4PEO if he would continue to handle the distribution of the News Letter. He agreed, and said that the cost of using Prona Print was £30 per 75 copies excluding envelopes and printing. G4STH suggested that the time and frequency of the Club 80M net should be included on the News Letter header. This was agreed to be a very good idea, and G3XTT agreed to implement this.

Ian then asked G4JVG whether he would continue as Entertainments manager. Steve agreed and said that he had arranged a dinner at the Grovenor Hotel Caversham on June 16th.

Subscription Increase

Discussion took place on whether there was a need to raise the annual subscription from £5. Discussion took place as to whether the Club should fund the cost of its own QSL cards. The Chairman dismissed this idea, and said that he would soon have some figures for the importation of cards printed in Hong Kong. He said that it would be up to the individual members to pay for their cards, not the Club.

G3ZAY then raised the subject of CDXC sponsoring plaques for the winning British Isles single op entrant for the CQWW SSB and CW contests. Martin pointed out that there were no trophies at all other than paper certificates for this contest, other than those that came from sponsorship from bodies or Clubs outside CQ magazine. He felt that it would be good for CDXC if we joined the list of sponsors that were announced in CQ magazine.

It was thought that the cost of providing these winners plaques would be around £30 - £45 annually. There was some discussion as to whether CDXC wished to be associated with contesting. G4STH said that it was not for Dx'ers to sponsor testers. G3KMA said that the Club must be 'broadchurch' and should encourage all forms of HF activity. G3HTA said that he had gained considerable benefit from his contesting

days, and that he favoured the idea. In the end it was put to the vote. 18 voted in favour of CDXC sponsoring these trophies and 4 voted against. Accordingly it was proposed that subscriptions would have to be increased to cover this additional expenditure. G3KMA proposed that the annual subscription be increased by £1 to £6. GW3BLE seconded the proposal, which was voted as accepted.

Affiliation To RSGB

The Chairman proposed that a vote be taken as to whether the Club should go ahead and become affiliated to RSGB. G3GIQ seconded the proposal. With the proxy votes received, the voting was 54 for and 4 against. The Chairman said that he would ensure that the Club be affiliated as soon as possible.

Any Other Business

G3VKW raised the subject of Club badges. The Chairman said that it was desirable that all members should have CDXC badges, and that it was even more important that new members be issued with a badge upon joining. G3HTA said that he would print up enough badges to cover the whole membership, and send them to G4LJF, who would produce the name and call label to go on the badge. Ian said that the Club would bear the cost of the plastic cover out of the extra income generated by the increase in subs, and that the badges would be distributed with the News Letter.

Packet Cluster System

G4LJF brought up the subject of the DX alert system widely used in the USA. He said that he had written to RSGB seeking permission and backing to set up a similar system over here. He said that it would be an effective way of linking the east and west areas of the Club, particularly if the Net Rom network on 144.675 could be used. G3COJ said that in his opinion, 2 meters was a hopeless band for such a system, and that 6 meters should be used. G4LJF disagreed and said that .675 was relatively quiet compared with .650, the main bulletin board frequency, plus the fact that there was a comprehensive Net Rom network established there that would enable a large number of Club members to participate. He concluded by saying that we would have to wait and see what RSGB/DTI's views on the idea were.

G4PEO brought up the fact that in a recent publication of the 2M band plan, no mention had been made of the use of 144.525. The Chairman read out the letter from the VHF Committee following our dispute with the slow morse practice sessions, which stated that the frequency was to be used for the passing HF Dx information, subject to the frequency not being in use by other persons. He however agreed to write to RSGB and ask them to make a note on future band plans that 144.525 was the common frequency for DX information.

HF Convention

Discussion took place on CDXC's part at the RSGB HF Convention on September 31st and October 1st. It was hoped that many CDXC members would be able to attend the dinner on the Saturday night. G3OZF agreed to hold a buffet after the Convention on the Sunday at his QTH on the same basis as last year. The Chairman thanked Don for this and said that he would like ideas from members on how we could promote the club

at this years convention.

1988 WFX Contest

G4JVG announced that GB4CDX had achieved first place in this contest for the G multi single entry. Steve then presented the certificate from CQ magazine to Ian G4LJF for the use of his station. The Chairman thanked Steve for the award, and pointed out that due to flying commitments, he had only operated for a very short time in the contest himself!

Mc Michael & Longleat Rallies

GØBTY pointed out that there was a spare table at this rally on July 23rd. The committee said that they would look into the feasibility of attending, though the Chairman said that he would be away on holiday at that time.

G3HTA reminded members of the Longleat Rally on June 25th, and said that the Western DX group would again be holding a hospitality tent.

Certificate Of Merit

Discussion took place as to who should receive the CDXC Award. It was suggested that F6EXV should be considered for his efforts in the Pacific. Also to be considered were 3D2CR, XF4L, 3WØDX.

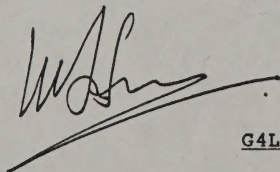
Club Name

G3HTA again raised the subject of the club name. He said that he would still like to see a more National club embracing the former groups. The Chairman replied that the matter had been fully discussed, and been put to the vote both at the meeting and by proxy. The result had been overwhelmingly in favour of retaining the name Chiltern Dx Club, and as such he must abide by the majority wish of the membership.

G3KMA asked that the matter be put on the agenda for next years ARM. The Chairman replied that the matter had already been decided, but anyone was free to bring the matter up next year under Any Other Business.

There being nothing further to discuss, the Chairman thanked those present for attending, and closed the meeting at 1755.

Signed



G4LJF Retiring Secretary

